
NARA NOTICE

2023-059

Date: February 10, 2023
To: All Employees
Subject: Incident at the National Archives Museum and Related Lawsuit

Earlier this week, a lawsuit was filed against NARA stating that on the morning of January 20, 2023, the day of the March for Life, several visitors to our museum in Washington, D.C., were told by NARA security officers “to remove or cover their attire because of their pro-life messages.”

NARA policy expressly allows all visitors to wear t-shirts, hats, buttons, etc. that display protest language, including religious and political speech. We are actively investigating to determine what happened. Early indications are that our security officers quickly corrected their actions and, from that point forward, all visitors were permitted to enter our facility without needing to remove or cover their attire. We have reminded all of our security officers at our facilities across the country of the rights of visitors in this regard.

As the home to the original Constitution and Bill of Rights, we are especially mindful of the rights of free speech and religion and the significance of those rights, and have issued a [public apology](#) for this occurrence.

Because a lawsuit has been filed, we cannot comment further.

DEBRA STEIDEL WALL
Acting Archivist of the United States

If you have questions about this notice, contact:

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